

COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS**IN ASCENDING ORDER WITH STATUS INDICATOR**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A fiber channel system, comprising:

a loop comprising a plurality of connected hub ports[,] arranged in a loop, each hub port connected to another hub port, and a plurality of node ports, each node port connected to a corresponding hub port but separated from the loop, each node port for sending failure initialization data in the form of Loop Initialization Primitive (LIP) F8 ordered sets back to its corresponding hub port upon detecting a failure in data being received by the node port, said hub ports each including an error detecting portion which detects ~~failure initialization data indicative of an error from a corresponding node port~~ LIP F8 ordered sets received from its corresponding node port, and a switch, ~~said switch being~~ electrically controlled to pass information from said loop through a node port when said node port is operating properly, and to control said switch to bypass said node port when said node port is sending ~~failure initialization data~~ LIP F8 ordered sets indicative of errors.